which struck upon my ear at the table of an American sailing packet. The captain, on the whole, was not an unfavorable specimen of his country and his profession; he happened one day to be giving to the company some details of his early life. He had been born in one of the Carolinas, and at rather an early age had been sent to school in New England; "and a very disagreeable change I thought it," he went on to say, "after coming from home, where I could order the slaves to be flogged whenever I chose." This seemed not to excite the slightest observation among my fellowpassengers at the time. It is true, that when I remarked upon it a little while afterwards to a Southern gentleman, whose frequent Eu.

Numbers ropean intercourse and gentle nature have made him sufficiently aware of the effect it was likely to produce upon me, he assured me that I must not consider it as an ordinary specimen. But I want to know, if you bring together wayward children, and weak parents and irresponsible power, how can it help being an ordinary specimen? And thus I feel that, for illustrating the system of slavery, I have no need to resort to instances of murder, mutilation, lust and incest, but I place before you a child in the nursery, with his parents out of doors, and an obsequious attendant at his

Having said thus much about the Book, I feel that I have nearly anticipated all that I have to offer in this confined space upon its Subject. That subject is slavery, and it surely constitutes the most difficult and solemn problem that now engages the attention of mankind. I have no wish to dissemble or gloss over my entire and ardent sympathy with its victims and its opponents. The Anti-Slavery party in the United States may possibly have made mistakes and miscalculations which have no means of correctly appreciating; but with all due allowance for error, infirmity, and the intolerance which is apt to entwine itself even with the noblest of efforts and the holiest of causes, my calm belief is that they are fighting a battle unparalleled either in ancient or modern heroism. Of modern heroism I certainly would not speak lightly in addressing either the country of Washington or of Wellington. Let them be rightfully hailed by the respective populations as the Fathers of their Country. But glorious as may have been their exploits in the field, and scarcely less glorious their undeviating deference to the laws and constitutions of the countries they had adorned and saved. I feel almost inclined to question whether, in the estimate of an all-ruling and all-merciful Providence, any cause which even they had ever adopted can outshine in true Christian chivalry the efforts of those who, let may, make it the business of their lives to harand to transfer him from his broken chain to Having thus expressed, in no flattering ac-

cents, my sympathy with the enemies of Slavery on its own soil. I do not wish to quit the topic without a word of counsel to my own countrymen, to observe entire justice and dis cretion towards its friends and abettors. must never forget that we originally intro duced the pestilent system into our Colonies, and that we did much to fasten and rivet it upon them when they were indifferent or reuctant. At the same time, it is to be noted that the onward course of the present century, which has witnessed in England the success sive abolitions of the slave trade and of slavery, and in the United States the enactment of th Fugitive Slave Law, is daily tending to diminish the appositeness of this piece of complicity. However, again, we must bear in mind that the difficulties with which even we had to contend in achieving this great consummation, and which cost us years of arduous struggle and repeated disappointment, are infinitely multiied in a country where slavery is not relegated, as it was with us, to distant colonies and separate islands, but is spread over immense portions of their continent, throngs in their markets, jostles in their streets, nestles in their iest detester of slavery amongst us must feel, that even if he could be invested for a moment with absolute power, he would be utterly at a loss to know what he could in wisdom recommend, or what assured remedy be could prescribe, for this pervading and dominating evil. And, above all, even supposing that we had the right to re; reach, or the sagacity to advise, we should be most careful, on the score of policy, to use the word in its best sense, does not damage the cause we have most at heart, and actually injure the afflicted race for whom I know there are those amongst us who would willingly lay down their lives. To gag the free and full expression of opinion in this country, upon any exhibition of tyranay and unrighteousness, either of European despots or American slave holders; but we may be quite certain that we could not confer more material assistance upon than by arraying on their side any feelings of insulted nationality. I have seen the most de-voted Abol tionists suddenly fire up, if they thought their country was exposed to unde served censure, or mapplicable contumely. The Anti-Slavery party in the United States are entitled to the most fervid expression of our sympathy and admiration; the personal intervenam persuaded, only clog their efforts, and not lify any which, as a nation, we may ever have a fair and legitimate opportunity to use. Let rel be the concurring conscience of mankind, let the only shout of triumph over its adjust ment be the hallelujahs of the heavens. Nevertheless, while I am anxious to pre-

scribe even to the warmth of sympathy and the arder of humanity their due bounds and restraints, I think it most desirable, not only that the conscience of the American People should be roused to its inmost depths, but that they should read, in the increased stir and sensation which the question excites through al the family of man, the certain indications that it can fiever sleep, but that it must work and mine its way, till, in one made or another, its ultimate consummation be accomplished. It clear, and accurate reports of its proceedings is for them to examine the ground, to lay the and debates, with such explanations and comfoundation, to smooth the approaches; happy or them it will be if they may rear the nobl edifice of a race's freedom in tranquillity and composure, and not amidst scenes of confusion, violence, and bloodshed, such as the gaze of Liberty herself would shrink to encounter. Let them only drink in deep enough the thor orgh conviction that things cannot go on for-ever as they are going on now. Within even the short interval which has elapsed since my own visit to the Union ten years ago, and from even this far distance, it appears to me that I can track the footsteps of no slow progress in the career of this great cause. Such seems to me the formal proposal of a candidate by the Anti-Slavery party for the next election to the supreme office of President of the United States such seems to me the appointment conferred last year, by the eminently commercial, emioffice of its Senator in Congress, upon my much valued friend, Mr. Charles Sumner. In our past hours of friendly intercourse, in our frequent walks by the sparkling estuary of Boston, or upon the sunny brow of Bunker's Hill, how little did I, how little did he, I feel well assured, dream of such an opening upon his quet and unostentatious career! And now, while I have been writing these lines, I have received the speech he has lately delivered in Congress, on the bearings of the Fugitive Slave Law, which, by the closeness of its logic, and the masculine vigor of its eloquence, proves to me how all the perfections of his mind have grown up to, and been dilated with, the inspiration of the cause which he has now made his own. Indeed, when I rise from reading such a speech as his, or such a book as this to which I have now ventured to prefix this hurried prelude, I feel constrained at once to temper and to dignify my own sentiments, by clothing them with appropriate accents borrowed from

For this one action, guard them and distinguish the With signal mercies, and with great deliverance; Guard them from wrong, adversity, and shame.

Shall they be left a prey to savage power? Can they lift up their harmless hands in vain. Or cry to Heaven for h.lp. and not be heard? Go on, pursue! assert the sacred cause; Stand forth, ye proxies of all-ruling Providence And save the friendless captives from opprossi-Saints shall assist yo with provailing prayers, And warring angels combat on your side."

Castle Howard, October 9, 1852.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1852. The editor of the ERA will be "at home New Year's Day.

Mr. W. HARNED, Agent of the American Anti-Slavery Society, No. 48 Beekman street, is our agent for the city of New York, and is fully authorized to receipt for subscriptions to

NUMBERS WANTED .- Subscribers who do not file the Era, and have on hand Nos. 302, 303 306 307 309 will confer a favor by remiling them to this office.

OUR INDEX, this week, leaves us less space than snal for other matters.

CENSUS REPORT.-The admirable abstract of the onana returns, which was closed in last week's Era, was prepared for our columns by Edward Hart, a and habits of careful research and independent iniry. We know not when we have seen so much valuable information clearly arranged and condensed in so small a compass as is contained in that abstract.

NOTICE TO AGENTS AND SUBSCRIBERS.

volume. All new subscribers hereafter received, as well as these received for some days back, will be nenced with the volume.

Agents and others, in sending in lists of subscribers. greatly accommodate us by designating who are old and who are new ones; also, by being particular in giving all the taitials of each subscriber the wrong individual.

We give no receipts. As we do strictly a cash usiness, the receipt of the paper will be a sufficient eccipt. If, by an oversight, a person should receive a naper beyond the time paid for it is our loss, no

Persons who have sent us clubs of ten or upwards e privileged to add to the club at the rate of \$1.50 h, for either old or new subscribers Subscribers wishing their papers changed must

give the name of the post office to be changed from well as the post office they wish it thereafter sent a

PROSPECTUS OF THE SEVENTH VOLUME OF THE NATIONAL ERA

We commence this day the Seventh Volume of the National Era, with a list of TWENTYbor the fugitive slave from his pursuers, to seven thousand subscribers, which we intend keep watch over the sanctity of his asylum, to carry up to Fifty Thousand, at the earliest day possible, Baltimore platforms to the conswer just as well for this year, and therefore reprint it. Our readers will see a slight modification in the terms, in regard to old subscribers, made at the instance of numerous friends.

NATIONAL ERA-SEVENTH VOLUME. WASHINGTON, D. C., JANUARY 1st, 1862.

G. BAILEY, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR. J. G. WHITTIER, CORRESPONDING EDITOR

We believe in the unity of and common ori-God made of one blood all the nations of men to dwell upon all the face of the earth-in the golden rule, "Do unto others, as ye would that to the establishment of liberty and justice. worthy of support only so long as it shall answer these great ends.

We hold these truths to be self-evidentthat all men are created equal-that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights-that among these are life, liberty. and the pursuit of happiness-that to secure these rights, Governments are established among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed—that whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it, and to institute a new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form as themselves, politically and ecclesiastically, from to them seem most likely to effect their safety all responsibility for it." Can they do more?

We hold these truths to be applicable at all imes to all men, of whatever clime or comfoe of all forms of slavery, personal, political, spiritual, whether at home or abroad, and the advocate of all laws and usages having a tendency to equalize the conditions of all men, to secure to all equal opportunities for the enjoyment of liberty, acquisition of property, and noise, according to its capacity. If he had

These are the principles that have controlled of the National Era, which is responsible to no party, as no party is responsible for it, owing allegiance alone to God and humanity.

The literary department of the Era speaks for itself. To the corps of contributors who have heretofore enriched it, we shall add from ne to time, as our means shall warrant. Much attention will be devoted during the session of Congress to the preparation of concise. clear, and accurate reports of its proceedings ments as may be deemed necessary.

TERMS

One copy, one year - -

single copies, and for clubs, to old or new subscribers. Three, five, or ten old subscribers, for example, by clubbing, may have so many copies of the Era for \$5, \$8, or \$15.

AGENTS AND CLUBS.

Agents are entitled to fifty cents on each new yearly subscriber, and twenty-five cents on each renewed subscriber-except in the case of

may be an old one, at \$5, will entitle the person making it up to a copy of the Era for three months; a club of five, two of whom may be old ones, at \$8, to a copy for six months; a club of ten, five of whom may be old ones, at \$15, to a copy for one year. Money to be forwarded by mail, at our risk. Large amounts may be remitted in drafts or certificates of deposite. It will be seen that the price of the paper, single copy, is two dollars a year. Agents sometimes allow a subscriber, whom they obtain or renew, the benefit of their comnission, so that the subscriber, by their kindness, gets his paper for \$1.50, or \$1.75, as the

As we are obliged to pay 11/4 per cent. disount on Western funds, our friends would oblige us by sending, if not too inconvenient, Eastern money, especially notes of five dollars or upwards, on Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York, or Boston-Eastern funds generally being at 16 per cent., and notes of five dollars, on good banks in the cities named, at par.

They will please be careful to send us notes on any banks in this District, except the

Sweeney, Cashier.

Bank of the Metropolis, Washington, J. W.

Bank of Washington, Washington; William Gunton, President; Jas. Adams, Cashier. Patriotic Bank, Washington; G. C. Grammer, resident; C. Bestor, Cashier. Exchange Bank, Washington; W. Selden, President; W. C. Bestor, Cashier.

REMARKABLE COINCIDENCE AND A STRANGE

In our editorial in the Era of November 4th, on the indications of progress in the South, and the duty of the North, appeared the following paragraph

"There is progress in the South; and after all, to whom are we to look for the emancipation of the negro race, if not to its citizens We declare that our only hope for the peaceful redemption and improvement of the slave population is in the South itself. Congress can do nothing more than withdraw Federal support from the system; it has no constitutional power for its abolition. The free States cannot legislate on the subject-their citizens can do no more than discuss the question, and separate themselves, politically and ecclesiastically, from deman distinguished by discriminating judgment all responsibility for it. Farther they have no right to go. Where, then, is the hope of the slave? We may talk of the right of resistance, of rebellion, of revolution. Our fathers resisted the despotism of Britain. They would have been dastards had they submitted; they would have deserved chains had they not succeeded. They had intelligence: they had trade; they had the mechanic arts; they had arms and soldiery; they had Government; they had free institutions; and the despotism which oppressed them was across an ocean three thousand miles wide. The slaves have none of these advantages, and resistance by them would result in a war of horrible extermination.

"Where, then, we again ask, is the hope of named, as we often have many of the same name at the slave? So far as we can see, it is, under one post office, and are therefore liable to give credit God, in the free citizens of the South. Peaceful, successful emancipation must be their work. The public opinion that shall originate the accomplish it, wisely and beneficently, for all concerned, must be a Southern public opinion."

The position taken here is that which has been occupied by the great body of Abolitionists from the time their Declaration of Sentiments was put forth at Philadelphia, in 1833 but it was defined in such a form that it seemed to be quite new to those who had not carefully studied their principles. The New York Times was pleased to copy the paragraph, with highly complimentary remarks, characterizing the views presented by it, as "rational, constitutional, and safe." Other papers, of all parties. North and South, re-published it, accepting it as an evidence that Anti-Slavery men were becoming at last rational and moderate! Such trary notwithstanding. In looking over our of the Free Soil papers as noticed it, wondered Prospectus for the last year, we find it will an- what there was in it so new-they could see no departure from the old standard. And, at last, the Pennsylvania Freeman, one of the principal organs of what is called, by way of distinction, Garrison Abolition, took up the subject, and showed in an elaborate article, that the paragraph quoted so largely and commended so highly by Northern and Southern, Whig and Democratic journals, was in accordance "with the Declaration of Sentiments issued at the formation of the American Anti-Slavery Society, and with the action of that Society and its gin of the human race-in the doctrine that auxiliaries ever since," adding-"it includes our most ultra and radical measures. We must confess that we began to feel quite

puffed up with the notion that at last we had others should do unto you"-in the Higher framed a definition of Anti-Slavery faith and Law, "It is better to obey God than man" doctrine, to which Hunkers and Liberals, Slave-Liberty, as the fundamental condition of holders and non-Slaveholders, Free-Soilers and the defence, not destroyer, of liberty-in Order, but, alas! our self-complacency was suddenly ed, not subverted, by law-in the American tain Freeman, an excellent Free Soil paper Union, not as an end, but as a means -- a means | published at Montpelier, Vermont, whose worthy editor was greatly scandalized at the teachings of this marvellous paragraph. In his judgment, the paragraph was heretical-full of false doctrine-he could see no "great difference between the tendencies of this preaching and that of the Baltimore platforms. "Others," he said, "can do as they please, but we will cry aloud, and spare not." He was surprised to see us set our faces against agita

out what more the free States can do, than is stated in the paragraph to which he objects. "Their citizens," we say, "can do no more than discuss the question, and separate Has Mr. Garrison, Mr. Smith, Mr. Giddings, Mr. Hale, ever called upon them to do more? Did the Buffalo platform, does the Pittsburgh plexion, and are therefore the uncompromising platform affirm any duty on their part beyond

Does our worthy cotemporary ever read the Era? It may not "cry aloud" so zealously, or "spare not" so rigorously, as the Green Mountain Freeman, still it tries to make a little done us the justice to read the whole article. from which the foregoing is an extract, he and will continue to control the management would have seen the following paragraphs, from which he would have learned that he was not to be left all alone in his battle against

> the North, and their faithful fulfilment must powerfully tend to the increase of Anti-Slavery timent in the South. It should present clearly, fully, and constantly, the whole argument in favor of Freedom and Free Labor and it should kindly, but firmly, proceed in the work of relieving itself of all responsibility for

"The question, some say, has but one side—it does not admit of argument—the advocates of Slavery do not believe what they say—they are subjects for denunciation or ridicule, not sober argument. This is a great mistake. The Southern advocates of Slavery have presented their argument with a plausibility never before equalled. During the whole struggle against Slavery in Britain, we recoilect no logic used by its supporters there, so subtile and ingenious as that by which it is now sought to sustain American Slavery. It does no good to denounce and deride it; the thing to be done is to expose and refute it; the advocates of Slavery must be met on every ground, natural, moral, politicoeconomical, and constitutional, and the demonstration must be made that their whole argu-

"The next duty of the North is kindly but firmly to relieve itself of all responsibility for Slavery. So long as its political organizations are subservient to its demands, so long as its ecclesiastical bodies give it any support or countenance, so long as its religious or political press apologizes for it, so long as its literature or religion shall afford it any sanetuary or refuge, it must share in a greater or less degree the responsibility of its existence. Above all, such responsibility must rest upon it, so long as it shall consent to the existence of Slavery within the exclusive jurisdiction of the Federal Government, or to its extension beyond the limits of the States in which it now exists. In all kindness, but with inexorable purpose, it must say distinctly that it cannot, will not consent that the Government in which it has an equal voice, and an equal interest, shall use its ower for the maintenance or advancement of system purely sectional, repugnant to the great principles and ends of that Government, and in its judgment essentially wrong and mischievous. This much it has a right to say; this much it ought to say. It violates no right of the South; it inflicts no wanton insult. It simply refuses to consent to what in its opinion would involve it in guilt, and the Nation in

ultimate ruin. "Let this duty be faithfully and courageously discharged, and Slavery would be limited for ever to its present area. This being settled, and considered settled as an ultimate fact, the extinction of the system would then be only a question of time. Southern statesmenthen, inplotting to put off 'the evil day,' by

South, under the pressure of the influences we have merely glanced at, and under the steady working of the law of self-interest, dictating, in the new circumstances, preparations for a new order of things, there would be a rapid growth of Public Opinion favorable to Emancipation." We are not aware that these duties have been defined in any Baltimore platform.

REV. JOHN SCOBLE

This gentleman, so long distinguished as one of the leaders of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, has lately arrived in New York, with his family, on his way, we believe, to Canada, where he proposes to settle. The British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Committee signified their high appreciation of his services

by the passage of the following resolution: "The Committee of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, in parting with their Sec retary, John Scoble, who from personal and family considerations is about to settle in Western Canada, feel it due to him to record their high estimate of the able, self-denying, and invaluable services that he has rendered, during a long period of years, to the Anti-Slavery cause, especially in connection with the successful efforts that have been made for the abolition of Slavery and the 'apprenticeship' in various portions of the British Empire, and the subsequent preservation of the rights of those whose freedom had been thus secured. The Committee would further express their earnest wish for the health and welfare of John Scoble and his estimable wife and family, in their in tended place of abode, and warmly commend manity and religion in Canada. " London, 9th mo. 3, (Sept.) 1852.

THE PROSLAVERY CONSPIRATORS AT WORK

After all, the exclusion of Slavery from the Pacific coast was the great grievance complained of by the Pro-Slavery Party. A Slave Empire from the Atlantic to the Pacific coast, with provision for its expansion Southwardly, was the scheme of that Party. It was baffled. Under the pressure of Public Opinion, brought to bear by the agencies of 1848, Freedom was established in California, and a limit set to the extension of Slave Empire on the West. From that time, the Pro-Slavery Party has been working to regain the ground it lost. Its emssaries have crowded into the new State, and got the control of its press and its politics. Northern men, and the opponents of Slavery from the South, have turned their attention to ining or trading, earing, as usual, more for wealth than political power. The Pro-Slavery demagogues, meanwhile, though greatly in the minority, have either silenced or seduced the ress, with one or two exceptions, and filled the egislature with men ready to advance their purposes. The passage of the infamous and constitutional Law, to re-enslave free negroes in the State, was their act, and an indication of their power and policy. The attempt to pass a bill submitting the question of a revision of the Constitution to the People, with a view of getting rid of the Anti-Slavery clause, or of dividing the State, so as to throw open the southern half to Slavery, was their work. The bill passed the House, but failed in the Senate, for want of the requisite two-thirds majority. The Conspirators have been busy since, and the attempt

The Press is faithless, with the exception of the Pacific, and one or two other papers-and Human Progress and Perfection-in Law, as Garrison Abolitionists, could unanimously agree; even these seem to be slumbering. The Pro-Slavery Party already talks as if the State were as incendiary, and they wondered at the audacity of the few Democrats who sought to carry out true Democratic principles in Cali-

> A writer in the New York Evening Post, is letter from San Francisco, November 14th,

In this State, the counties inhabited by the native Californians, (being those lying south of this city,) conceiving themselves aggrieved by the details of the State Government-especially by the heavy taxation—are deeply discontented, and strenuous for reform. This they hope to obtain, through the medium of a convent to revise the Constitution, either by a division of the State, or some alteration of the obnoxious constitutional provisions. These counties are almost to a man, opposed to enslaving the State; yet, such is their dissatisfaction, that they will join the Pro-Slavery men for a con-

"Add to this the defects, more fancied than real, inseparable from a Constitution framed as ours was, and you can imagine that, notwith standing a strong Anti-Slavery sentiment in the State, a bill may be forced through the Legislature, submitting to the people the question of a Convention. Then the question will not be submitted at

the general election in September, 1853, (for fear of a full vote and a defeat to the scheme,) but at a special election called in a few weeks after the passage of the bill, and before the people at large can have half understood the question. Thus it may be that, a second time, that empire. in spite of the majority of the voters of the State, a vote will be extorted in favor of a con-

The Conspirators, organized, vigilant, with the means at their command, will probably succeed in returning a large body of delegates. Should the judgment of the State, however, be against them, they will resort to stratagem.

"Slavery is to be excluded from the mine and admitted into the agricultural portions of the State! [As though a law should be passed] confining a conflagration or the cholera to the valleys and plains, and forbidding it in the mountains!] Then some few specious provisions are to be thrown in, for the benefit of the native Californian counties, on the subject of taxation, &c.; and the whole instrument, thus hous-pocused, is to be presented in a lump, to be voted for at another special election, in the mountains! Then some few specious provis-ions are to be thrown in, for the benefit of the be voted for at another special election, in the hope that, taking the good with the bad, and may slip through, and California be reduced to the level of Arkansas, Texas, and Missis

sippi.
This is, in a few words, the imperfect outline of the whole scheme for abolishing freedom in California, and degrading it into a slave State. And such is the servility and cowardice of Northern men, and the indifference of the rest, that there is much danger the plot may succeed. With scarce a press sure for Free-dom—two of the three Democratic papers dead against us—the Whig papers either hostile or silent—hardly any of the leading men, in either party, who is not a fanatic for Slavery, or in his heart false to Freedom and the State—there seems little room for hope. There is, in truth no hope but in the masses, the miners and la-boring men of the State, whose votes must save the State, if it is to be saved in the coming contest.

"In the absence of a press here, well-reasoned, temperate articles in Atlantic papers, addressed to the working people of the State, would have much effect. The sound opinion of the nation should be aroused; and the South should be made to understand that California free was a part and parcel of the Compromises; and that if the Compromises are distarted, the responsibility is on her, and not on the North, all results which must follow.

"But, 'something too much of this.' I never was so heartily sick of politics as just at this moment. For my own part, I will make what money I can, so as to be ready to act and run, at the first necessity."

That is not the spirit in which a man who sees the danger should act. He ought to confront it, with all the means God has put in his power. Let him appeal to those around him; et him write, speak, print, work day and night, to baffle the devilish scheme. There are good men enough in the State to save it, if they will but act. Let them organize-let them secure

for the removal of the evil. All through the but speak for Liberty. Let them establish agencies in California, for the circulation of papers from the older States, devoted to the cause of Freedom. A few daring, intelligent men will be able to marshal the friends of Freedom, so as utterly to overthrow the Pro-Slavery Conspirators-just as was done in Illinois, when an attempt equally formidable was made to convert it into a slave State.

IRREGULARITIES OF THE MAIL.

The New York Tril une says-"The public agents and advertisements of the New Jersey railroads impudently proclaim that passengers will be taken through from New York to Washington, nightly, by the train which leaves this city at 5 P. M., and that the passengers which leave here by the 2 P. M. train, via Amboy, will be set down at Philadelphia in 416 hours, or at 616 P. M.

"It has been our fortune to go over the firstnamed line five times within the last six or eight weeks. On three of these occasions we were planted in Philadelphia after the cars had left that city for Baltimore, with which they should have connected; and on the 8th instant the last time we went through, we found that failure to connect had taken place every day during the month; and of course the regular afternoon mail from this city for the So had regularly failed at all points south of Philadelphia during this period, and the passengers compelled to lie over.

It may not be generally known to our comnercial public, but the fact is, that the Southern mail, which leaves here at 5 P. M., does not usually go through to Washington that night, as it purports to, and as it should, but lies over at Philadelphia till the next day; and all in consequence of the inexcusable failure of the cars to reach Philadelphia in time to connect with the Baltimore train. Why the Post Office Department does not remedy this, we do not know, for we have never asked. The afternoon mail from New York is now almost uniformly a day behind at Washington, and yet nothing seems to be heard about it, except in vague grumblings in private circles, where the cause

We know something, by experience, of the hameful conduct of these New Jersey Monopolies. It is entirely within the power of their agents at any time to make the connection with the cars at Philadelphia. A very slight increase of speed would effect it. But, they are sordid and reckless. The comfort and interests of the Public are nothing to them.

The irregularity in the transmission of the mail is not, however, confined to this route. There is scarcely a route in the country, judging from the complaints of our subscribers, on which the mail service is properly attended to. There are places in Illinois which the Era does not reach till a month after date. There are post offices in the Western Reserve, (O.,) where t is not delivered till two weeks after publication. The delays on the route between here and Cincinnati, plain and direct as it is, are outrageous. The bags are made up carefully our office, every Tuesday evening, and start from here in the cars the next morning at six o'clock, for Cincinnati, via Wheeling. At the farthest, they should reach Cincinnati by Saturday morning; but our subscribers constantly complain that they do not receive their papers till Monday morning-five days from Washingon-and this in a country of steam and railroads! We have been informed that at some little place, Frostburg, or some other "burg," the mail on this route lies over one day! If this be so, it is disgraceful. If the contractors on the Wheeling route cannot do better than this, they should be kicked out of employment. There are two other routes-by the Lakes and Pittsburgh. Why will the Postmi eral submit to the imposition of a Company that consults more its own convenience than the interests of the public service ?

Mr. Hubbard, the Postmaster General, is an energetic man, and, had he time, we have no doubt would effect important reforms. But, short as his time is, he certainly can do something to remedy the insufferable delays and

irregularities on the principal mail routes. We recollect that when editing a paper in Cincinnati, similar delays used to occur, and it was ascertained that some of the mail bags were then occasionally thrown out to make room for oysters ordered from Baltimore!

THE WOMEN OF GREAT BRITAIN TO THE WO-

We find in our exchanges the following admirable address from women of the highest rank in Great Britain, to the women of this country. It is modest, affectionate, courteous, free from self-righteousness and self-complacency. Emanating from women eminest by their station or talents, it will be received, we doubt not, by the women of America, in the same spirit which dictated the appeal to their sympathies. It is important, too, as showing them a way in which they may bring their influence to bear with the women of Great Britain, in relation to the great social wrongs in

"On Friday, the 26th ult., a meeting of la-dies was convinced at Stafford House, to consider the expediency of addressing a memorial from the women of England to the women of the United States, on the subject of slavery. The ladies being assembled.

The Duchess of Sutherland read the following paper: 'Perhaps I may be allowed to state the object for which this meeting has been called together; but very few words will be required, as all, I am sure, assembled here. must have heard and read much of the moral and physical suffering inflicted on the race of negroes and their descendants by the system of slavery prevalent in many of the United States pe that, taking the good with the bad, and another concerted movement among the or at least to mitigate, so enormous an evil. The draught of an address accompanied proposition, and, as it is intended to offer that address for your adoption, I will now read it

many Thousands of the Women of England to their Sisters, the Women of the United States of America.

" 'A common origin, a common faith, and, we sincerely believe, a common cause, urge us at the present moment to address you on the subject of that system of negro slavery, which still sile so extensively, and with ils so extensively, and with such tern world.

" We will not dwell on the ordinary topics, on the progress of civilization, on the advance n everywhere, on the rights and requirements of the nineteenth century, but we appeal to you very seriously to reflect, and to ask counsel of God, how far such a state of things is in accordance with His Holy Word, the inalienable rights of immortal souls and the pure and merciful spirit of the Christian

" We do not shut our eyes to the difficul-ties, nay, the dangers, that would beset the im-mediate abolition of that long-established system; we see and admit the necessity of preparation for so great an event; but in speaking of indispensable preliminaries, we cannot be silent on that law of your country which, in direct contravention of God's own law, "inetitated in the time of many," investigated in the time of many, investory." direct contravention of God's own law, "insti-tuted in the time of man's innocency," denies to the slave the sanctity of marriage, with all its joys, rights, and obligations; which sepa-rates, at the will of the master, the wife from the husband, and the children from the pa-rents. Nor can we be silent on that awful sys-tem which, either by statute or by custom, interdicts to any race of man, or any portion of the human family, education in the truth of the Gospel and the ordinances of Christianity.

"A remedy applied to these two evils alone would commence the amelioration of their sad condition. We appeal, then, to you, as sisters, as wives, and as mothers, to raise your voices

God, for the removal of this affliction from the for slavery; and in the voice and through Christian world. We do not say these things in a spirit of self-complacency, as though our nation were free from the guilt it perceives in others. We acknowledge with grief and shame our heavy share in this great sin, we acknowledge that our forefathers introduced, nay, compedied, the adoption of slavery in those mighty colonies. We humbly confess it before Al-mighty God; and it is because we so deeply feel, and so unfeignedly avow, our own complicity, that we now venture to implore your

"There are many reasons why this address should be presented rather by the women than by the men of England. We shall not be suspected of any political motives; all will readily admit that the state of things to which we allude is one peculiarly distressing to our sex and thus our friendly and earnest interposition

aid to wipe away our common guilt and our

will be ascribed altogether to domestic, and in no respect to national feelings.

"We shall propose to form a committee for the purpose of collecting signatures to the address, and of transmitting it, when complete, to the United States. As a general commi would be too large for the transaction of the daily business, we shall propose a sub-committee, to report, from time to time, to the gener al committee; but there is every reason to hope that the whole matter may be terminated in short space of time. It only remains for me to acknowledge the

kindness with which you have acceded to my request in attending here this day. I hope and believe that our efforts, under God's bless ing, will not be without some happy results but, whether it succeed or whether it fail, no one will deny that we shall have made an attempt which had, both for its beginning and for its end, 'Glory to God in the highest—or earth peace—good will towards men.'
"The memorial was then agreed to, and a

sub-committee appointed.

"The ladies present were the Duchesses of Sutherland, Bedford, and Argyll; the Counter of Shaftesbury, Lady Constance Grosvenor, scountess Palmerston, Lady Dover, Lady Cowley, Lady Ruthven, Lady Bellhaven, Hon. Mrs. Montague Villiers, Hon. Mrs. Kinnaird, the Lady Mayoress, Lady Trevelyan, Lady Parke, Miss Parke, Mrs. Owen, Mrs. Carpenter, Mrs. Buxton, Miss Buxton, Mrs. John Simon, Mrs. Proctor, Mrs. Binney, Mrs. Holland, Mrs. Steane, Mrs. John Buller, Mrs. R. D. Grainger, Mrs. Hawes, Mrs. Sutherland, Mrs. Mary Howitt, Mrs. Dicey, Miss Trevelyan, Mrs. Milman, Miss Taylor, Mrs. Robson, and

Mrs. Macaulay.
"The ladies whose names follow signified their concurrence: The Duchess Dowager of Beaufort, the Marchioness of Stafford, the Countess of Derby, the Countess of Carlisle, Lady John Russell, the Countess of Liehfield, iscountess Ebrington, the Countess of Cavan, Viscountess Melbourne, Lady Hatherton, Lady Blantyre, Lady Dufferin, Lady Easthope, Mrs. Josiah Conder, the Hon. Mrs. Cowper, Lady Clark, Lady Paxton, Lady Kaye Shuttleworth Lady Buxton, Lady Inglis, Mrs. Malcolm, Mrs. Seeley, Mrs. Alfred Tennyson, Mrs. Lyon Playfair, Mrs. Charles Dickens, Mrs. Murray, Mrs. Charles Knight, Mrs. Marsh, Mrs. Champneys, and Mrs. Rowland Hill."

CUBA-THE IN-COMING ADMINISTRATION.

Our Congressional report this week contains very brief notice of an important debate which took place last Thursday in the Senate. on a resolution introduced by Mr. Mason, of Virginia, calling upon the President for copies of the diplomatic notes recently received from the Governments of France and England, respecting a tripartite convention to secure Cuba

Mr. Mason, we presume, wishes to be re garded as the representative of the Conserva tive portion of the Pierce Party, and his move ment is designed to concentrate and organize the elements of Conservatism in such a way as who represents the Progressive portion of the Party, or the "filibusters," as some affect to call them, did not seem pleased with this movement. Having obtained the floor, he will lay his views before the Senate next Tuesday, the day fixed for resuming the subject.

The prevailing impression-in which, by the way, we do not participate-is, that the Administration of Gen. Pierce will be controlled by the Conservatives. Should this impression. however, be verified by future events, he will close his career four years hence, with about as much political strength as Mr. Fillmore.

To those who fondly imagine that the "Cu ban bubble," as they term it, has burst, we commend the remarks of Mr. Mason and Mr. Cass. Conservatives as they are, they both speak with entire confidence of the future an nexation of Cuba to this country. As to the time. of course they predict nothing; but Cuba mus be ours-" Inevitable Destiny" prescribes it. "Filibustering" must be discountenanced-we must act honorably towards Spain-but if purchase can effect annexation, we must purchase or, if there should be a successful revolution we must annex ft; or, should any other Power attempt to get foothold in the island, we must declare war, and take it ourselves. This, if we understand them, is their position—the position of those Southern Conservatives, on which some Northern men have relied for security against all schemes of Cuban annexation!

Hitherto we have been intent upon calling he attention of the People to these schemes, unwilling to see them lulled into false security If we are to have any more territory, let then not be tricked into a position where nothing will be left for them but to ratify what has been forced upon them. As to the policy and bearings of the proposed annexation, we have said but little. It is a subject we reserve for discussion hereafter.

TRUE, VS. FALSE, DEMOCRACY.

The following letter, from the Hon. Stepher C. Phillips, of Massachusetts, is important, both for the counsel it contains and the indication it furnishes of the state of sentiment among our friends in Massachusetts. It was not intended, we presume, for publication; but the practical importance of its views will justify us in making it public. The opinions so distinctly enunciated by Mr. Phillips-opinions for the utterance of which Mr. Chase, one of the truest Democrats in the country, at one time was made an object of assault in his own State-may now be regarded as the opinions of a majority of our SALEM, MASS., December 18, 1852.

My DEAR SIR: While enclosing my annual subscription, I desire to congratulate you upon the increased circulation of your paper, and upon the evidence it furnishes of the growing preparation of the national mind to consider and decide upon the questions which are dis-cussed in the Era with so much discretion and

the progress of our organization. We must in some respects take a new start. We are prepared to place ourselves exclusively upon Democratic ground. The Pittsburgh Platform causes us to be known henceforth by the name of Free Democrats, and commits us unquali-fiedly to the simplest, broadest, and most comprehensive Democratic principles and measures The issue we are to make with the new Admin istration and its supporters will be, Which is genuine, practical, consistent Democracy—their policy or ours? So far as they propose proper Democratic measures—whether tending the advancement of the cause of freedom at home or abroad—we are to support them, and to show curselves prepared, not only upon one question, but upon all questions, to abide the test of thorough practical Democracy. So far as they choose to show themselves not Democrats, but ultra Conservatives, upon the question of Slavery, and measures growing out of it, we are to confront them, and to insist upon the application of a rigid Democratic test, which will justify our fidelity and consistency. Strip off disguises, and let the truth prefail, and the

action of the Democratic party the glo consummation must be accomplished, which will involve the abolition of slavery. One of two things is certain—a Democratic party in overthrow slavery, or slavery will prevent continued existence of a Democratic part Notwithstanding untoward circumstances lieve the former alternative to be more probab and more practicable than the latter. duties, great trials, and great sacrifices, await duties, great trials, and great sacrifices, away us; but do not these constitute a glorious epo in which it is a privilege to live? The car which demands the National Era, and is rapidly increasing its circulation, must advang and with an influence as diffusive as the live of the sacrification of the s of truth, and as irresistible as the power of vir-tue. Let us not allow ourselves to doubt that God will bless and that man must aid so

Yours, therefore, gratefully and hopefully,

DEBATE IN THE SENATE On the subject of conferring the title of Lieu tenant General.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21.

The debate arose on a joint resolution to au-therize the President of the United States to confer the rank of Lieutenant-General by br vet for meritorious services, it being understood that General Scott was to be the room ient of the honor.

General Shields said he was in favor of it as an act of justice—of military justice to General Scott. The Committee on Military Affairs took the same view of it. Mr. Cass supported it in a speech, in which he paid a warm tribute of admiration to General Scott. Mr. Borland said that he would not oppose the resolution so much, if it were a proposition to confer this rank directly on the General, but Mr. Shields remarked that this course would be unconstitutional. Mr. Adams, of Mississippi, and Messrs. Chase and Hale, opposed the resolution, Messrs, Clemens and Pratt defended it On ordering the resolution to a third reading-the test question-the vote stood

YEAS-Messrs. Atchison, Badger, Bell, Butler, Brooke, Cass, Charlton, Clemens, Cooper, Davis, DeSaussure, Dodge of Wisconsin, Dixon, Dodge of Iowa. Fish, Geyer, Gwin, Hunter, James Jones of Tennessee, Mason, Miller, Mor-ton, Pearce, Pratt, Rusk, Seward, Shields Smith, Soulé, Spruance, Underwood, Unham,

NAYS-Messrs. Adams, Bradbury, Bright Catheart, Chase, Felch, Hale, Hamlin, Norris Sumner, Toucey, and Walker-12 The joint resolution was then read a thir

time and passed. The only Southern man voting against was Mr. Adams, of Mississippi. The rest of the negatives were given by Democrats and

Pierce men.

We have no room for the debate at length, but our readers would hardly forgive us, if we omitted the publication of the consise and statesmanlike remarks of Mr. Chase, and a portion, at least, of the piquant speech of Mr

Mr. CHASE. When this resolution was originally before the Senate, some two years since.
I felt myself constrained to vote against it. I then gave a silent vote; but I now desire to state briefly the reasons which control me. The object of the resolution has been de-

tinctly avowed by the honorable Senator from Illinois, [Mr. Shields,] and by the honorable Senator from Michigan, [Mr. Cass.] It is to create a new rank in the army, for the purpose of distinguishing a particular individual, he conferring that rank upon him. Now, is worth the cost—is it expedient that an American Congress should revive this rank, which, as has been stated by the honorable Senator ferred in our whole history as a nation, and then only upon Washington, and for reason growing out of the condition of public affairs The best reward of noble deeds is the conscious ness of duty done. That highest reward, I appose, the soldier as well as the civilian most conets, that consciousness which will sustain the pos-sessor at all times, and under all circumstances, amid opprobrium as well as applause. It con-stitutes a reward which he finds in his own breast, and which it is impossible for any to take from him. Now, sir, no man wishes to Scott has won or worn; no man desires to be prive him of any jot of that gratitude which is country has so freely offered to him, or to take from him a tittle of that world-wide re-

nown which his achievements have gained for him: and the fame of his achievements has gone, I may almost say, wherever any language of civilization is spoken. Our duty is to consider the consequences of the act which we are now called upon to perform. I said a moment since, repeating what had fallen from the Senator from Michigan, Mr. Cass.] that this rank has been created but once pefore in our whole history, and then it was created for the purpose of conferring it upon s man who was above all his compeers. not think the object of the Senator from Mich igan, to avoid the inference that any man is the peer of Washington, will be attained by changng the word "revive" for the word "create this resolution. Change what you may, the thing

remains; the fact is still there that you confer the

office which was created for Washington upon another distinguished person; and whether you style it the "revival" or the "creation" of

that office, makes no difference in practical effeet. Why, sir, although Washington carried the country through the war of the Revolution, it was not thought necessary to create any new title for him at its close. He conferred upon his country the highest of all benefits; he as-sured to her, by his services in the field, freedom and independence. More than any other man, under the blessing of Providence, he secured to us the privileges and institutions which we now enjoy. And, yet, whoever thought of dignify-ing him by a new title, by conferring upon him any of those gewgaw distinctions which Legislatures can create, and which Legislatures can take away? No, sir; his reward was of a different description. It was found in the con-sciousness of his own heart that he had conferred the greatest benefits upon his country and upon the world, and in those grateful regards of the people who surrounded him every where he went, and distinguished him as "first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen." That was his distinction. No trappings of office, no mere military title, no distinction such as that you now propose to confer, constituted any part of it. It flowed from the great fountain of his own services,

the people.

I am averse to distinguishing any man by the title which was conferred upon Washing-ton alone; and conferred on him only when it was supposed that he was immediately to be called into the actual service of his country in the war with France. I remember the affection ing and noble letter in which he signified his acceptance of the commission. He accepted it not as a mere rank, not as an honorary distinction, but as a commission to render new ser-vices to his country in a new and perilous field. It was his warrant for duty to be done in the ervice of his country, not a mere trapping of

and was returned to him in the gratitude of

under consideration before, that it was suggested on the part of the opponents of this measure that we were entering upon a new policy by confer ring titles—mere titles—as a consideration i military services. And it was asked, where all this to end? And I recollect very well? a very distinguished supporter of this resaid at that time, that if the case should in which it was necessary, he was willing to grant the marshal's baton, and to confer whatever rank the usages of European Governments allow, for the purpose of Epressing the gratitude and admiration of our Republic. Now, my honorable friend from Michigan and others. say that there is no danger in mere words. If the substantial rank and power remain unchang-ed, where is the danger of conferring a higher title! Why, sir, who does not know that the

title? Why, sir, who does not know that the substantial power of Louis Napoleon three months ago was jurias great as now? Where, then, according to its argument, was the harm of granting to himsthe title of Emperor, and settling the descer of the empire in his family? None, if mr. power is all we are to regard, without greet to the titular distinction which we write.